

# ST. LOUIS LABOR

OFFICE: 212 South Fourth Street. PHONE: Kinloch, Central 1577

Workingmen of All Countries, UNITE!

You Have Nothing to Lose But Your Chains, and A WORLD TO GAIN!

VOL. VI

ST. LOUIS, MO., SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1908

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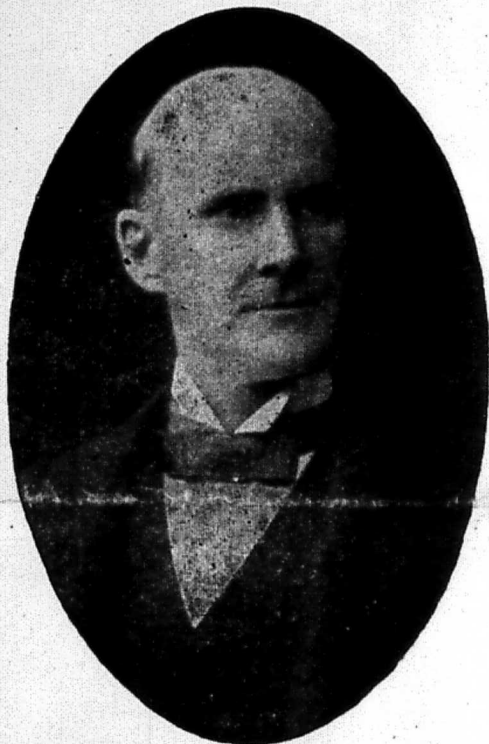
## Debs and Hanford Biggest Convention of SOCIALIST PARTY

### Enthusiastic and Re-Nominates Ticket of 1904

Chicago, May 11, 1908.

The Socialist National Convention will almost have completed its work by the time this issue of St. Louis Labor will reach the subscribers.

The convention was called to order by National Secretary Barnes yesterday, after 1 o'clock a. m. Comrade Hillquit of New York was elected temporary chairman, and Frederic Heath of Mil-



EUGENE V. DEBS FOR PRESIDENT.

waukee, as temporary Secretary. Next a number of telegrams of congratulations were read from the Independent Labor Party of England and from Socialist locals and organizations all over the country.

A credentials committee was elected, which reported the presence of 219 delegates. The report of the standing committee on rules of order caused considerable discussion, especially the question of having a special committee on farmers' program of action. Queer as it may seem, most of the delegates from the rural districts opposed the recommendation of the committee, while most of the city delegates were in favor of it. The latter took the ground that a program for propaganda and organization work among the rural population was badly needed.

The first real "line up" came at this morning's session, when the committee on rules of order recommended the election of a committee on Trades Unions. Right here was a chance to observe the weakness of the very people who favor "Revolutionary Unionism" on the soap box and don't know where they are at whenever the question is put up to them pointblank. Comrade Pope of St. Louis opened the debate in favor of the committee's report, after Goebel had opposed it.

Delegate Goebel of New Jersey declared that his state had instructed the delegation to oppose any declaration on the trade union question. He was followed by Delegate More of Pennsylvania, who supported the motion, declaring that in his state the appeal of the



BEN HANFORD FOR VICE-PRESIDENT.

Socialist Party was made directly to the whole working class and no distinction was made as to organized or unorganized.

Josephine R. Cole of California declared that the trade unions were fighting the battle of labor.

Lee of New York declared that the convention could not dodge this question—that it should not dodge it. Organized Labor represents a far larger portion of the working class than the Socialist Party. The International Congress is concerned equally with the trade unions and the political movement and if there are any states where the unions are opposed those states ought to be told that they are outside the Socialist movement.

Ida Crouch Hazlett of Montana said it was a disgrace that the Socialist Party was even looked upon with aversion by the Organized Workers.

Victor Berger of Wisconsin said he came from a place where there were two wings of the working class movement that worked in harmony and where the Socialist Party always supported the unions in their fights and the union men voted the Socialist ticket.

"I can not go back to Milwaukee," he said, "and tell them that a Socialist convention has refused to consider the trade union question. I have bolted many parties before and will bolt one more."

"Do you mean that this convention is not going to say anything on the trade union question?" asked Barney Berlin.

"Where is the class struggle? Is it at the factory door. When the boys went out in the stockyards strike we were with them. We sent two Socialists to the legislature."

"We have too many among us who say we have nothing to do with the trade union. How are you going to talk to the working class if you can say nothing on the trade union?"

Delegate Toole of Maryland moved to amend the report of the rules committee by changing the words "trades unionism" to "labor organizations."

Clark of Texas declared that this was a national convention and that he would bow to its decision, but he maintained that if there was to be an economic movement that it must be one that shall show the power of the co-operative commonwealth.

T. J. Morgan of Illinois said: "If you refuse to recognize the trade union question it means the repudiation of Karl Marx, of the International Congress and of every Socialist congress in the world."

The previous question was moved and two speakers allowed on each side before vote.

Rogers of Ohio favored the appointment of committee because the trade unionists, he said, were ready for political action.

Cannon of Arizona said that the delegates of Nevada wished to protest against one union "scabbing" upon another.

Joseph Cohen of Pennsylvania opposed the appointing of a committee. "The Socialist Party of Pennsylvania," he said, "fights the battle of workers, but opposes making trade unions a privileged element in the working class."

Osborne of California said he thought the committee on rules had provided for too many committees. He did not think that a struggle for more wages is a part of the class struggle.

The vote was then taken and the motion to appoint a committee on labor organizations was carried by an overwhelming votes.

(Note—This week's St. Louis Labor reaches the readers one day late in order to place before you the choice of our party Convention at Chicago and the most important events. The Capitalist Press has this year more than ever before tried to kill interest in our National gathering by suppressing all details. They reverse the admirable personal virtue and maintain silence where only good can be spoken. At the last hour the following expected telegram was received from Comrade Hoehn.)

CHICAGO, ILL., MAY 15, 1908.

ST. LOUIS LABOR, ST. LOUIS, MO.:

DEBS AND HANFORD NOMINATED. GREAT ENTHUSIASM. STRONG UNION RESOLUTION ADOPTED. UNITY HUMBUGH VOTED DOWN.

G. A. HOEHN.

### Letter From the Transvaal By KEIR HARDIE, M. P.

After a flying visit to Pietermaritzburg, the capital of Natal, and part of a night spent at Ladysmith, I set out for Johannesburg, accompanied by Mr. Connolly. The hotel in which I slept at Ladysmith still shows the holes in the walls through which a Boer shell came one day and killed a doctor as it made its way out by the front door. The belfry of the town Hall also carries the mark of the siege.

From the hospital mount, Spion Kop and half a dozen other historic spots can be seen. But it was not to see these that I visited the hospital. Within in a narrow room, wasted and wan, and almost voiceless, lay Willie Johnston, one of the pioneers of the movement in Edinburgh, an engine driver by trade, and now dying of consumption. When he realized who the unannounced visitor was who was bending over him such a love-light came into his eyes as brought the mist to my own. I gave him all the news about the stalwarts at home, and great was his joy at what I had to tell about the progress made of late years. It was evident that his days in the land were to be few in number, but this did not seem to concern him. It was enough to know that the Cause was flourishing. His fellow-workmen are doing what they can to keep the wolf away from his ken till Azrael brings the great peace.

We wound round Majuba Hill early on Sunday morning, and about five in the afternoon reached Johannesburg. At each station from early morning there had been a knot of people who invariably gathered round the carriage window where I was, and on several occasions I had to say a few words. The farming element, as a rule, stood aloof, sullen and scowling, whilst the young jingoes indulged in what were meant to be witty remarks, and sometimes indulged in some rough horse play. The reception at Johannesburg station was not nearly so rough as I had anticipated, though it was bad enough for all practical purposes.

Next day I was driven round the city accompanied by Mr. Connolly and an old-time comrade and co-worker from the north-east of England. I don't know why, but Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner" was much in my mind not only then, but all during my stay in Johannesburg. There is an air of desolation about the suburbs which is positively depressing. Nor are the main streets much better. The talk of its people, whether they be workmen, shopkeepers, or business men, is all cast in the same doleful key. And strangely enough, they all date their misfortune from the Raid of twelve years ago. Following the Raid came Milner and the war, and of the three plagues Milner is universally held to have been the worst. This man, who a few short years ago was presented to the people at home as a demi-god, is only spoken of now in South Africa in terms of contempt and revilement. The Milner administration after the war is synonymous with incompetence, corruption and jobbery. From the day he set foot in the country he was never more than the fly on the wheel of the mine owners' chariots, though it suited them to make it appear that it was his iron will and mighty brain which were responsible for raising all the dust. To-day it is known to all

men that whatever his skill as an accountant he never had administrative ability enough to run a coster's stall. The men who run the Rand needed a scapegoat, and in Milner's inflated vanity they found one ready to their hands.

To-day the output from the mines is greater, and the dividends higher, than ever, but the clouds of depression over Johannesburg are also blacker than ever. The one rift in the gloom is, so I was told on every hand by patriotic Britishers, that there is a Boer government in power. How true it is that the whirligig of time never fails to bring its revenge.

When the war was over a great boom set in, especially in land and buildings. It appears to have been based on the assumption that unlimited prosperity had been for ever assured when the Union Jack took the place of the Verkleur. Land which sold for £2,000 during the boom can not now be sold for £500, or even half that sum. Most of those who bought were bit, and those who built are, as a rule, bankrupt. And so there are empty houses and unemployed workmen, and much want and woe on the Rand. But the mines pay £7,000,000 a year in dividends, and nothing else matters.

I visited a mine over 2,000 feet deep, and also went over one of the compounds. One can not generalize from a particular case, but the mine was well ventilated, and the timbering the finest I have ever seen anywhere. The compound was, especially the newer parts, clean and comfortable, and the Chinamen live under much better sanitary conditions than they do at home. They and the Kaffirs get on well together, and John soon picks up enough pigeon Kaffir to carry on conversation with his table workmates. As for the nameless evil which it is alleged is peculiarly Chinese, the manager assured me that there are ten cases among Kaffirs for every one among the Chinese. Just now the supply of native labor is so abundant that the recruiting agents in certain districts had been notified not to forward any recruits until further advised, as there were over a thousand in the depot waiting employment. The Gordon drill, from which so much was expected, had not, I was assured, turned out a success, mainly owing to the metal not being able to stand the strain. As a result of the strike the number of white men employed had been cut down by 15 per cent. Each white man superintends nearly double the number of boys he had formerly. As for employing white labor only, that I was told was impossible save in the case of a few of the richest mines. Here is the case as it was put to me. The cost of mining a ton of ore at present is 3s; white labor would increase this by 7s, making a total of 10s. At present the profits average 8s per ton, of which 7s would be absorbed were the white men to do all the work. I give no opinion on these figures, but merely set them down as they were given to me. Others of equal authority give them a flat contradiction.

The labor movement does not flourish in Johannesburg—in fact, it is difficult to conceive of anything healthy flourishing in such a place. There are a Trades Council, a branch of the I. L. P., and a Political Labor League. At the last election several Labor men were returned, and others just missed success. Better luck next time. From Johannesburg to Pretoria I went and spent two days seeing the sights of the place and meeting its prominent people. There the Socialist movement is fairly strong, and its caliber excellent. Pretoria is as pleasant as Johannesburg is repulsive, and I was sorry not to be able to afford more time to it. From there I went to Bloemfontein for the week, and from thence via De Aar, where I spent a day with Olive and Cronwright Schreiner, to Cape Town.

## Missouri Socialist Party

News From All Parts of the State, Reported by  
Otto Pauls, State Secretary, 212 South  
Fourth Street, St. Louis, Mo.

### New Locals.

Newton County gets another local of 11 member at Granby. Comrade Berry of Joplin was the organizer. J. H. Branam lands another local in Scott County at Hoe School House; 8 members. H. M. Fouty organizes Mountain Grove with 11 members. W. L. Tryplet gets a local of 13 members over the plate at Congo, Shannon County. Dunklin County comes to the front again with a local at Senath of 7 members. R. F. Liddell conducted the negotiations. Cassville, Barry County, takes a front seat with a local of 9 members, organized by H. Chapman. The Italian coal miners of Novinger have organized a branch of Local Bevier.

### Hannibal Election.

Two years ago the Socialist vote of Hannibal was 42. At the recent election the Socialist vote increased to about 150. This gives the Hannibal comrades official standing. They are very well pleased with the result and expect to set a new record in November.

### Barton County Convention.

All Socialists in Barton County are called to meet at the Courthouse in Lamar on Saturday, May 23, to suggest candidates for the Socialist Party to be voted upon at the primary election to be held on the first Tuesday in August, and to devise ways and means for a more perfect organization. All locals are requested to send delegates and all unattached Socialists are requested to be present.

Caleb Lipscomb, Chairman.

### The Petitions.

Locals that have received a set of the state petitions should bear in mind the urgent need of returning them to the state office without delay. Secure the necessary signers at once, as time is required to verify the petitions and file them with the secretary of state. The petitions for district candidates must be completed very soon. If filed at the last moment there will be no opportunity to correct errors.

### County Candidates.

Candidates for county offices must file a declaration of their intention with the county clerk. The required forms for this declaration can be had from the state secretary. As many as are required will be sent on application. No candidate for a county office can go on the primary ballot unless this declaration is made.

### Salary of the State Secretary.

In view of the additional time and work required to attend to the business of the state office, the Quorum recommended that the salary of the state secretary be increased from \$30 to \$40 per month. In compliance with the requirements of the state constitution, the recommendation was submitted to the state committee and they have voted as follows:

In favor of increase: Scott, Station, Allan, Bibb, Lipscomb, Hotham and Brandt. Kindorf and Halferty were in favor of the matter being decided by a vote of the locals. The recommendation is carried, as the above vote indicates.



EQUAL SUFFRAGE

By Vernon-Halliday, University of Illinois.

The history of the advance of political ideas is not a record of rapid and brilliant progress. It is rather a process of slow evolution.

Prejudice and the custom of ages have alike arrayed themselves in opposition to this progress. Revolutions are the milestones in its path.

On the ground of abstract justice woman's claim to the ballot ought not to be denied by any one. Certainly, it can not be denied by the people of our own country.

But the opponents of equal suffrage say woman is different from man; that, if abstract justice did not oppose it, expediency would withhold the ballot because she is unsuited to the exercise of that right.

A century ago, the theory that women do not know enough to vote might have seemed plausible. But, today, when we observe the overwhelming majority of girls in our public schools;

We need woman in politics. We need her for the promotion of peace—for the maintenance of purity in state and nation.

The objection is often raised that women do not want to vote. Doubtless there are many married women who would not care to vote because their husbands sufficiently represent them now.

We hear the oft reiterated statement that the enfranchisement of women, thereby doubling the number of voters, will double the difficulties attendant on every election.

Equal suffrage has been tried and has been found not wanting. If it will be for the advancement of good government, for the promotion of peace, for the establishment of a higher standard in law and order;

To democratic America, the appeal of equal suffrage must ultimately be irresistible. It involves all those deep-seated and vital principles which alone can give stability and worth to our institutions.

Before the age of machinery the fear which hung over the nations like a dreadful spectre was that of bad harvests.

Under modern control over the powers of nature, machinery serves not only to produce a hundredfold more abundantly than formerly, but also to bring the distant parts of the world together in the distribution of the surplus.

THE FEARS OF NATIONS

Editorial from Wall Street Journal.

Under modern control over the powers of nature, machinery serves not only to produce a hundredfold more abundantly than formerly, but also to bring the distant parts of the world together in the distribution of the surplus.

Under modern control over the powers of nature, machinery serves not only to produce a hundredfold more abundantly than formerly, but also to bring the distant parts of the world together in the distribution of the surplus.

But freedom from fear of want through failure of harvests has given place to another fear even more to be dreaded in some respects than famine.

Under existing conditions of popular thought and feeling there is no escape from this overhanging fear of national decadence.

Not unless man, in the hope of nations, comes to be regarded as a greater asset than markets; not unless quality is more worthy of developing than quantity, and not until the self-defense of outer freedom shall have yielded to the dominion of inner values, can the world market be made into something better than a fighting machine.

THOMAS McGRADY'S LAST WILL.

This is what His Pamphlet on "The Catholic Church and Socialism" May Justly Be Called.



One of the best (if not THE best!) pamphlets written by Rev. Thomas McGrady is "The Catholic Church and Socialism."

comment to the printer, to be set up for this edition of the pamphlet, that he received the sad news of the sudden death of the brave comrade and friend Thomas McGrady.

The retail price of the pamphlet "The Catholic Church and Socialism" is advertised as 10 cents; but we have made special arrangements whereby we are in a position to sell it for 5 cents a copy, and mail it to any address, postage prepaid.

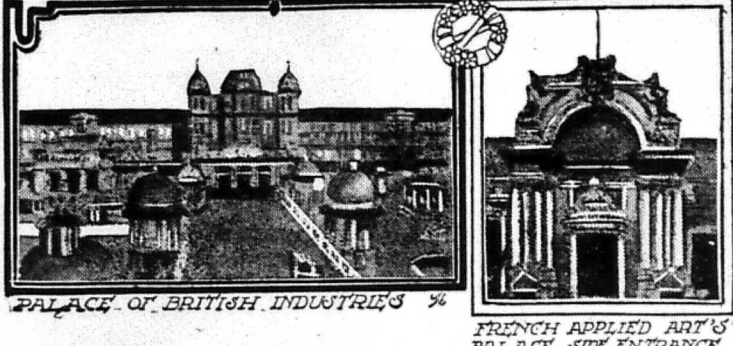
Missouri Socialist Party

State Secretary: Otto Pauls, 212 South Fourth Street, St. Louis, Mo.

ROSTER OF MISSOURI LOCALS.

Table listing local branches and secretaries for the Missouri Socialist Party across various Missouri towns.

FRANCO-BRITISH EXPOSITION



Since the great exposition at the Hyde Park in London in 1851 there has been nothing in that country of the same scope and magnitude as the Franco-British exposition, now nearing completion at Shepherd's Bush.

The idea of a mutual exhibition between the two nations for the purpose of increasing commercial intercourse was proposed by the French chamber of commerce in London in 1905.

The exhibition site covers 140 acres, and the exhibits will be housed in 20 palaces, and there will be a series of eight exhibition halls.

The Women's Palace is chivalrously described by Mr. Kiraity as "the most beautiful palace in a city of palaces."

The buildings are spacious and artistic structures, built for the most part of steel, iron, concrete and plaster.

The next largest is the Indian Court, where the products of the Indian empire will be displayed to full advantage.

In the very center of the grounds, with their various palaces on either side, is a huge lake, from which run lagoons.

A portion of the grounds, known as the Elite Gardens, will house the Garden club.

There will also be an Irish Village and a native settlement, including an Indian village from western Canada.

Actors will find all the newest theatrical appliances and equipment on show; medical men will see the latest discoveries in medicine and surgery.

The Stadium has a length of 1,000 feet and is 594 feet wide. The seating and standing accommodation is 75 feet wide and consists of 32 tiers for seats and 65 tiers for standing.

There will be more than 3,000 representative athletes taking part in the varied contests, and the curves of the running track have been so delicately calculated that a runner will be able to get around a corner at full speed.

The Flying Machine contests and competitions. Perhaps the most sensational item in connection with this feature of the exhibition will be the Marathon race.

The first act of "The Girl Behind the Counter" represents the interior of a department store.

The property man did not stop to discover what had happened. He dropped the figure in a heap upon the floor and started to run.

New Idea in Addressing Letters. A new kink in addressing envelopes has been noticed recently by some of the post office clerks.

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Workings of all Countries, Unite

# LABOR.

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You Have Nothing to Lose but your chains, and a World to Gain.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**

Subscribers changing their residence are requested to promptly notify this office of new address. Also state old address.

The Press Committee meets every first Friday in month. Complaints concerning business or editorial management must be made in writing and addressed to Labor Press Committee, 212 S. Fourth Street.

THE EDITOR OF LABOR welcomes and appreciates any recommendation or co-operation from any comrade or sympathizer tending to improve our paper, both as to its contents and its appearance.

**SOCIALIST VOTE OF THE UNITED STATES.**

1888	2,000
1896	36,000
1900	122,000
1904	408,000

**SOCIALIST VOTE OF THE WORLD.**

1867	30,000
1877	494,000
1887	931,000
1893	2,585,000
1898	4,515,000
1903	6,285,000
1906	over 7,000,000

## The National Convention

The Socialist National convention is in session in Chicago. Addresses of welcome, speeches by the delegates, election of committees and committee sessions—this is the usual first three days' work of conventions.

The real work will begin with the committee reports, which will be by the middle of the week, i. e., when our paper goes to press.

In next week's St. Louis Labor our readers will find a complete report. Some of the principal transactions will undoubtedly be reported by the daily press. Our readers will find a synopsis of the first two days' proceedings on the first page of St. Louis Labor.

## WASTE OF LIFE

We have repeatedly called attention to the massacres on the American Industrial battlefield. Here is an editorial from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat on the same subject:

**"Reckless Waste of Life."**

"A comparison of fatal accidents in this country with the rate in Europe is an alarming exhibit of what must be called a destructive spirit of carelessness in the United States. The American consul general in London furnishes figures showing that the number of deaths from industrial accidents in the United Kingdom for the year 1907 was 4460, an increase of 341 over the year 1906, and of 207 over the average for five years. The fatalities in mining were 1,273 and in railway employment 487. These figures show an amazing difference against this country. The mining catastrophes for the first three months of 1908 have been the worst ever known in the United States.

"In the last seventeen years over 23,000 men have lost their lives in American mines. The rate is 3.40 per cent in the United States, in Great Britain 1.29, and in Belgium and France each less than 1 per cent. The showing on the railroads is even worse. Proportionately six times as many persons are killed on American railroads as on those of Europe. It is estimated that 272,000 factory employes in the United States are injured annually. In New York City alone the average of violent deaths has reached 3,400 a year. In fire losses and fatalities a similar margin against this country is seen. A spirit of recklessness exists in these matters that demands investigation and action on the part of congress and every state legislature.

## WHAT SOCIALISTS HAVE ALREADY DONE

By ROBERT HUNTER.

Modern Germany has no dire poverty.

Broken-down workmen, suffering from tuberculosis, chronic rheumatism or other forms of invalidity, maimed and injured workmen, incapable of further labor, weary and exhausted veterans of toil are no longer forced to maintain an agonizing and futile struggle for bread.

In six months I did not see a single beggar in Germany.

Coming from a country where workmen, as soon as their days of usefulness are over, are thrown on the scrap heap and degraded as paupers and beggars, I asked of every one the reason for this difference between Germany and America.

For over twenty years they have had compulsory insurance.

Today practically every workman in Germany is insured against sickness, old age, invalidity and accident.

Every year a hundred million dollars is distributed in pensions to these unfortunates. Every industrial "outcast" has his little patrimony to keep him from want.

Austria has a similar system, France, Belgium, Italy and other countries are following the example of Germany.

In all these countries the workmen have their own political party, forcing upon their various nations these great changes.

The trade unions of America have accomplished great things for the workers. The Germans also have their trade unions, more powerful at the present moment than our own.

But can trade union action anywhere show benefits equally great with those won in Europe by political action?

## FREE SPEECH

"The community which dares not protect its its humblest and most hated member in the free utterance of his opinions, no matter how false or hateful, is only a gang of slaves." These words come down to us as a patriotic inheritance from the eloquent lips of Wendell Phillips. The same sentiment flowed in metrical lines from the pen of James Russell Lowell, who wrote that "they are slaves most base, whose love of right is for themselves and not for all the race." To these classic appeals to the higher motives of men, Henry D. Lloyd added a practical appeal to the sense of self-preservation, when he said: "Encroachments upon rights of free speech and free assemblage which we have looked upon with indifference because they were for opinions which to us seemed false or hateful, we have suddenly found applied to ourselves. Here is repeated again for us the warning of which all the histories of liberty are but the record. The outposts of our rights are to be found in the maintenance of the rights of the least of our brethren. The more odious they, the more do we need to keep our lamp of vigilance trimmed and burned for their defense. It is through the weak gate of their uncared for liberty that the despot will steal upon us."—The Public.

## THE SCAR

By ERNEST POOLE.

Big Franz Czebech has already been in New York two years, and he had worked in a foundry. A tall, bushy-haired, stoop-shouldered, Hungarian giant—he stood in a small caged room, looking steadily through the cage at a doorway—waiting. This was "Lover's Lane," the spot on Ellis Island where the forerunners meet the wives and children whom they have sent for. An inspector here swore to me that he had seen hundreds of thousands of kisses a year. Here the forerunner is caged until he can prove that this woman is his wife, these children his children. In the human order of things, this is soon done; by the glance of the eye, an explosive breath, a loud, sudden laugh, an excited capering child, or a torrent of words—swift questions and answers, all of which often continue right through the inspector's interrogations—and comes to a climax when the cage door is opened! Greetings doubly dramatic from the contrast in garb and in bearing.

Big Franz was now an American. The stiff Sunday suit, collar, red tie and gray felt hat—these were but surface signs. Deeper signs—the jaws had set, since the days in the dull country hamlet; the huge calloused hands had been trained to a steel mill job; the face had grown leaner and filled with the lines of new thoughts, new desires, new struggles. The eyes once accustomed to fields and primitive plows and sleepy old horses and distant chimes—these eyes had been fixed on strange night pictures, furnace mouths, steam hammers, spurring steel. "Heigh, you! Wake up! Look alive!" The peasant changed into a workman.

Big Franz pulled a cheap silver watch from his pocket. Ten minutes past five. The night gang went on at seven. With a quick, impatient jerk of the head, he glanced at the door. And just at this moment Hungary entered! Hungary, light haired and rosy beaming; face framed in a white and red shawl; below it, a gay red checked homespun dress; below that, big wooden shoes clattering, hands dragging Marie and curbing plump, tiny Franz, Junior. One eager look, a flash, a quick cry and a laugh, and—but here the smiling inspector stepped in. Bewildered, she turned to his desk and impatiently answered the questions; while by her side, with one chubby hand buried deep in the safe skirts of his mother, the other chubby hand plunged deep in his gaping mouth—Franz, Junior, stared at the big man in the cage, whose face was twitching and grinning, and whose eyes showed an alarming hunger. Franz, Junior, solemnly stared. Suddenly, with one jerk, he pulled his first from his mouth, inclined his stout little body slightly forward, looked hard, frowned—and then slowly an answering grin spread from his mouth to his ears—and the next instant he turned and dove far into the skirts of his mother.

At this moment big Franz turned and saw us—impudent, grinning bystanders. He scowled and his face grew embarrassed. And when the door was opened and the beaming woman came rushing to meet him, he looked down awkward and sheepish. Then he laughed, manfully kissed her—hard, and lifted the plump one up into his arms, and bent his shaggy head, his big gnarled hand pressed tighter and tighter, and when the head lifted there was a vivid red spot on the cheek of little Franz, Junior.

Franz, Senior, looked down at his wife and laughed—a low, deep, bursting laugh; and pushed back his hat and leaned over to tickle Marie, who still clung to her mother. As he did so, the wife gave a quick cry of horror. He stopped and looked at her astonished. She was staring up at his high forehead.

The hat pushed back had revealed a long, livid line, which began just over one eye and ended in the shaggy locks over his right temple. Just for a moment that beaming look of hope had left her face, and dread was in its place. As for little Marie, she took one look and jumped quickly behind her mother. But not so wee Franz, Junior. He knew. With a bound he was up again and feeling the livid scar and chuckling. And his father chuckled, too. A few of those strange Hungarian words, and the wife knew what many wives know about steel mills. Later on Marie was to learn about other things—the night shift, sliding scales, Wall street panics, strikes, lockouts, unions and the like. But just now big Franz's chuckle was wonderfully reassuring.

With a toss he landed the chubby one on his shoulder. He stopped and seized her knobby red bag, and strode off down the hall at a pace that made one Marie trot and the other Marie positively scamper. Off to the tenement rooms and the mills glaring in the sky—to make the steel which goes into ships and bridges and engines, into rails and skyscraper beams, machines and tools and even schoolhouses. The face of big Franz showed how deeply happy he was—with that tremendous, irresistible hope which makes the fuel of the cities.

At the end of the hall he stopped, dropped the bag and jerked out his watch. The night gang went on at seven.

## The Chicago Convention

Once more the Socialist Party of America has reached a milestone. Since the tenth of May it is assembled in national convention. Again it will choose a presidential ticket, and, what is of still

greater importance, again adopt a national platform. Here is a point from which we may look backward and forward.

A little handful of us can remember with pleasure the first presidential convention of the party. It was a very small band of pioneers who assembled in Indianapolis, in March, 1900. One of the best recollections of that convention will always remain, for those who heard it, the eloquent and thrilling nomination speech made by Comrade Frederick O. McCartney, then member of the Massachusetts legislature. Since that day the infant party of 1900 has developed into a sturdy and growing youth.

Four years later, the convention held in Chicago showed how much the party had increased in numbers and ripened in experience. Here the great question was between the Constructive Socialists and the ultra Impossibleists. These extremists held that it was useless to try to make things better except by one sudden stroke, which would overthrow the whole capitalist system. On its ruins the Co-operative Commonwealth could then be built up. The Constructives showed that this was not Nature's system, that changes come by evolution and gradual development. They argued that we must improve the condition of the workingmen in the present as far as possible, if for no other reason, at least to make them good fighters. A physically and mentally deteriorated working class is unfit to carry on a successful class struggle. They held that a gradual change of the capitalist system into the Socialist Republic is the only possible manner in which the social revolution can be brought about.

Between these two points of view there was every possible shade of intermediate belief in the Chicago convention of 1904. On this issue every measure was argued. The Constructives finally won out to some degree. Since then the idea of Constructive Socialism has been steadily gaining ground in our party.

So much for the past. What of the future?

Everybody with open eyes and ears can perceive the great unrest that today is stirring the American people. The public has something of that irritable and restless feeling from which men and animals suffer just before a thunderstorm. Everything is ready for the rise of a tremendous Socialist movement, such as was never seen in this or any other country on the face of the globe.

Everything is ready—as far as conditions go. But unfortunately, the people themselves are not ready. They have no clear ideas. They know neither what they want nor how to get it. The Socialists have a great deal of teaching to do before they can educate all this vague unrest.

But first of all we must educate ourselves. We must make very clear in our own minds the right policy for the American Socialist movement to pursue. Whether the approaching national convention will adopt the right policy or not is the all-important question for the future.

On the action of the convention is hanging the history of our party for the next four years.

### What Our Delegates Must Do.

What will be the great question before the Chicago convention? Whether this man or the other shall head our presidential ticket? The personnel of our candidates, although a matter of importance, is a minor question compared with our platform and tactics.

Since our last national convention, one remarkable change has taken place in the history of Socialism. England has swung into line. It used to be argued, because of the backwardness of England and America in the Socialist political movement, that there was something radically opposed to Socialism in the Anglo-Saxon nature. Now slow John Bull is really getting his Anglo-Saxon blood roused. The British working class is fast coming over to Socialism. It has sent a splendid Socialist representation to Parliament. What a terrible shock to the British capitalist, who thought the English workingmen would sleep forever in their purest and simplest of all conservative trades unions!

Now what lesson has this for us?

If England can swing so quickly and unexpectedly into the Socialist army, why not America? Why can we not have Socialists in Congress?

English institutions are much nearer to ours than are the institutions of any other European country. For this reason, the tactics that have brought about this great change in England are very interesting for American Socialists. It is probable that similar tactics would have the same result in this country.

The most striking point in the methods of the Socialist political movement of England, as it is working today, is its co-operation with the trades unions. The English Socialists in Parliament work with those Laborites who were not elected as Socialists, and, in fact, are not Socialists in their personal views. But Socialists and non-Socialists work harmoniously together for the betterment of the conditions of labor. Thus they have secured such splendid measures as the employers' liability act—a grand and sweeping reform, of which both Socialists and trades unions may be proud.

In this way the English Socialists are securing two ends.

First, they are gaining the confidence and good will of the trades unions.

Secondly, they are educating the British workingmen to political action. And whenever workingmen take up independent political action, no matter how prejudiced they may be against Socialism, they are on the road to the Socialist program. They can not long act politically without becoming class-conscious, and Socialist principles follow class-consciousness as naturally as day follows dawn.

The Socialist party of America ought to get in closer touch with the trades unionists. Wherever this has been done, our movement has grown correspondingly. In Milwaukee, for instance, where we have the best political movement of any American city, there the trades union organization and the Social-Democratic organization are the two arms, as has often been said, of the labor movement.

To bring about such a state of things throughout the country should be the chief object of the Chicago convention.

And to do this we must accustom ourselves to understand the trades unionist's standpoint on all measures. The trades unionist is eminently practical. He wants some improvement now. He wants better labor conditions today. No Utopias for him.

Certainly we must not forget our final goal, the Socialist Republic. But neither must we forget the working men and women and their children of the present day. The practical sense of the English Socialists has promoted them to the front. Practical sense will do the same for the American movement.

Less of fine-spun theories, more of getting down to everyday facts, is what we demand from our delegates to the Chicago convention.—The Vanguard.

**Boycott the McKinney Bread Co.**







**Socialist News Review**

**Notice to Voters**

Public notice is hereby given that on and after April 6, 1908, any qualified voter of the city of St. Louis who is duly registered on the Primary Registration Books for any precinct in the City, if he has moved his residence to another place in the same precinct or to another precinct in any ward of the City, may, upon application at the office of the Board of Election Commissioners at Room 120 in the New City Hall, have his registration changed on the Primary Books to conform to his new residence.

Transferring of voters addresses on the registration lists will go on uninterrupted throughout the year except for five days preceding and five days following a primary election or regular election. All reports made to the contrary are incorrect.

**The British I. L. P. Conference.**

The Independent Labor Party of England met in Huddersfield in annual conference. The Labor Leader, commenting on the convention, says: The Huddersfield conference of the I. L. P. was a triumphant manifestation of the advance of Socialist thought and organization in Great Britain. With the exception of the International Socialist Congress, held in London in 1896, no delegate meeting of Socialists comparable to it has ever been held in this country. There were 401 delegates present, representative of branches in almost every country in England, Scotland and Wales, together with several delegates from Ireland. The enthusiasm and political ardour of the conference was unbounded. The delegates, men and women, sat in almost unbroken ranks throughout the whole time of the sittings of the three days. Many have been the hints and forecasts in the press, as Mr. Hardie points out elsewhere, of dissension and rupture which were to develop in the conference. There was to be a furious contest for the chairmanship of the party, the "young bloods" were to overthrow the "old gang," and the Labor Party alliance was to be rent in twain. The wish was father to the thought. Instead of a contest for the chairmanship, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald was elected unanimously and with acclamation. Instead of the vet-

erans of the movement being cast out after the manner of capitalism as "too old at forty," the young propagandists demonstrated their appreciation of the service of those who have led the van of the movement by re-electing them with towering majorities. So far, too, from the conference revealing any desire to break away from the Labor Party alliance, it reaffirmed its conviction of the wisdom and importance of that alliance by restating it in the new constitution of the party almost without a dissentient voice. Even with respect to the Colne Valley dispute Mr. Grayson and his supporters declared, one and all, their full indorsement of principle, if not all the terms, of the united Socialist and Trade Union covenant. Nor did the conference reveal any signs that either the growth or success of the movement, or its political unity with the Labor Party, had in the slightest degree lessened the definiteness of the Socialist purpose of the I. L. P. So far from that being the case the Huddersfield gathering has proved the most resolute and "Red Flag" conference which the party has yet held.

**The Socialists in Belgian Parliament.**

The Belgian Socialists have gained a great triumph. King Leopold and his courtiers were trying to rush the annexation of the Congo, and they have now been compelled to call a halt. It is fine reading—the debate in which this desirable end was accomplished. The Socialists had set their hearts on two things—first, that they would not discuss annexation until the House had considered the conditions of annexation; and second, that they would come to no decision on annexation until the elections in May. The government was unwilling to give way on either of these points. So the Belgian Chambers met in a mood which showed that the fat was in the fire. Destree, who put the Socialist position frankly before the government, certainly did not mince his words. He hinted that obstruction would follow if the Socialists were flouted, and made it very plain that they meant what they said. M. Schollaert, the prime minister, visibly wavered in the presence of this strong attitude. He almost burst into tears as he explained his position; and when another Socialist ran up to cross-examine him, the Chamber became noisy with excitement. The result was that the government capitulated to the Socialists on every point raised, and the Belgian Socialist papers are chanting a paean of victory. Of course the Congo question is not yet settled. The Belgian ministers are Jesuits in their diplomacy, and some of the government papers hint that the whole question

may yet be reopened. But the Socialists are keeping a watchful eye on every development of the official mind. Ministers go in ecstasy over the mines of wealth which the Congo will open to the country. They quote the new president of the Board of Trade (called in "Le Peuple" M. Winston-Churchill) on the capacities and potentialities of the country. The Liberal Party, as a whole, have no fight in them on the question, and it is to the Socialists that the people of Belgium look to save them from a ruinous career of Colonial adventure.

**Socialist News From Milwaukee.**

Milwaukee, Wis., May 4.—Says the Medford (Wis.) Democrat: "The vote of the Social Democrats in Milwaukee at the last election was a revelation to many. The party is a growing power in politics in this country, and while it may be many years before it gains control, still it is making the old party leaders sit up and take notice." The Social Democratic member of the Milwaukee City Council have introduced resolutions for more playgrounds for the children in the workingmen's districts, for more time off for the city firemen, for better street car service, and for track elevation of the railways. The old party politicians for two years have pretended to work for track elevation, but have so muddled the matter as to suggest that they have blocked it purposely. Meanwhile the railway tracks through Milwaukee are a constant menace to the life of the citizens, especially in the factory districts, where workingmen and school children are obliged to cross the tracks daily. Another proof of the fear in which the old parties now hold the Social Democrats is the fact that in the City Council and county board committees twenty members have been given very poor appointments. In former years, before the old parties got together against us, our men were on some important committee where they could do good work for the movement. Now they are placed on those where their work will be least dangerous to the old parties. For instance, on the county board, three Social Democrats are put on the committee in charge of the burial of ex-soldiers! But the Republican and Democratic politicians will find that the Socialists have some more live work to do than taking charge of funerals—except the funerals of the old parties.

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